

REMARKS

A restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and 372 as follows:

Group I - Claims 1-11, drawn to a method for detecting an inflammatory response in a breast of lactating mammal, which comprise measuring the amount of SAA protein or mRNA encoding such protein.

Group II - Claims 12-15, drawn to a kit for screening milk samples to detect inflammation in breasts of lactating mammals.

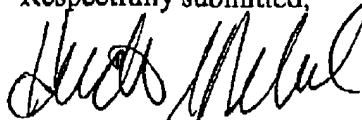
Group III - Claims 16-17, drawn to a method of accessing the ability of a treatment or agent to increase or decrease inflammation in breast tissue comprising measuring the amount of SAA protein in a sample.

Group IV - Claims 18-21, drawn to a method of evaluating quality of a milk sample which comprises measuring SAA protein in the milk sample.

Applicant elects Group I, claims 1-11, drawn to a method for detecting an inflammatory response in a breast of lactating mammal, which comprises measuring the amount of SAA protein or mRNA encoding such protein, with traverse. Applicant asserts that the methods and compositions of claims 1-11 are all related by a single protein, namely the colostrum associated SAA protein and as such do not require separate searches. Claims 12-21 will be cancelled upon indication of allowable subject matter.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Respectfully submitted,



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